

Appropriations Committee Hearing
3/22/13 HB 6354 Section 90

In Opposition to the Elimination of the Legislative Commission on Aging
By Susan Tomanio, Director of Elderly Services City of Danbury

I am once again writing this as testimony in regards to the Governor's plan to eliminate the Commission on Aging from state government in his recent budget proposal. As a licensed clinical social worker, the Director of Elderly Services for the City of Danbury, a CoA board member, someone who has elderly parents, and as a tax payer in the town of Bethel, I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

I am opposed for the following reasons:

The CoA's unique role in the legislative branch. The CoA is responsible for helping to create policy that supports older adults in CT. They play an integral role in bringing policy to fruition in the form of passed legislative bills. This is not a function of the state Department on Aging.

CT is the 7th older state in all of America, soon to be the 6th. CT needs a non-biased voice to advocate for our aging population, not only to serve the elderly, but to help prevent our state from being bankrupt by 2030 through heavy use of Medicaid. The CoA is a leader in "Rebalancing" efforts including: the Money Follows the Person program.

The CoA was responsible for bringing millions of dollars in revenue to CT last year.

The CoA board brings the voice of the local people up to state government where they can have additional representation in regards to aging issues.

The CoA is an invaluable resource to the legislature, informing them in a non-biased way on issues affecting our elderly so as they have the information they need and rely on.

It is for these reasons that I strongly oppose the elimination of the Commission on Aging from our state government. I urge you to take this testimony into consideration.

Thank you. Susan M. Tomanio, LCSW, Director, Elderly Services,
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